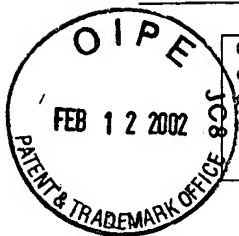


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1771

Applicant: NOBUHARA et al. Examiner: Unknown
Serial No.: 09/837,102 Group Art Unit: 1771
Filed: April 18, 2001 Docket: 13409.3US01
Title: FILTER CARTRIDGE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 18, 2002.

By: Hicham Bichara

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 15 Reference(s)
- ☒ Other: Copy of the applications Serial N. 09/937,129 and 09/937,128 ✓
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: Douglas P. Mueller
Name: Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No.: 30,300
D. Mueller:hb



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TC 1700 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	NOBUHARA et al.	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	09/837,102	Group Art Unit:	1771
Filed:	April 18, 2001	Docket No.:	13409.3US01
Title:	FILTER CARTRIDGE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 18, 2002.

By: _____

Hicham Bichara

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. Applicant wishes to call the Examiner's attention to a co-pending applications, U.S. Patent Applications SN.09/600,203, SN.09/937,129, and SN.09/937,128. Copies of the specifications of the related applications are enclosed.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) and § 1.98(d), copies have been provided only for those items listed on the enclosed Form 1449 that have not previously been cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the co-pending applications.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner that the applications US 4,100,009 and EP 0 307 234 are an English equivalent of JP 56-43139 and JP 8-29206, respectively.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

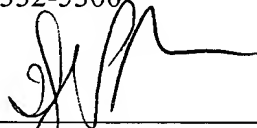
Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: January 18, 2002

By 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

D. Mueller:hb